



LSAT PREPARATION STRATEGIES

An applicant's LSAT score is an important component to his or her admissions file. Applicants therefore should properly prepare for the test. Many LSAT takers have reported how proper preparation greatly enhanced their score. Below are some suggestions for how you might prepare for the LSAT. Individuals have different learning styles, and not every strategy is equally effective with all test takers. Nevertheless, nearly everyone will benefit from LSAT preparation. You can seriously hinder your chances of admission into the law school of your choice if you do not adequately prepare for the test.

LSAT PREPARATION RESOURCES

Many books provide instructional guides and sample questions that will help your LSAT preparation. These books are reasonably priced and, if you use them effectively, can give you a lot of bang for your buck. Applicants who do well on the LSAT often observe that they most benefited from working through the sample questions in these resources, particularly those in the official tests released by the LSAC.

1. Law School Admission Council www.lsac.org (215) 968-1001	<i>The Official LSAT SuperPrep</i> –Includes 3 LSAT exams with answers <i>and explanations</i> <i>10 Actual, Official LSAT PrepTests</i> <i>10 More Actual, Official LSAT PrepTests</i> <i>The Next 10 Actual, Official LSAT PrepTests</i> –Includes 10 LSAT exams with answers	\$19.95 \$19.95 <i>each</i>
2. PowerScore www.powerscore.com	<i>The PowerScore LSAT Logic Games Bible</i> –Helps unlock the logic games section of the test <i>The PowerScore LSAT Logical Reasoning Bible</i> –Helps unlock every type of Logical Reasoning question	\$41.99 \$49.99
3. Nova Press www.novapress.net	<i>Master the LSAT</i> –Provides detailed explanations to LSAT questions	\$32.97
4. Barron's www.barronseduc.com	<i>Barron's LSAT—12th Edition</i> –Includes 6 LSAT exams and explanations –Can be purchased with accompanying CD-ROM	\$16.95 <i>(w/CD-ROM)</i> \$13.49 <i>(book only)</i>

In working through these materials, concentrate on:

1. Establishing a study schedule

In developing your preparation strategy, outline a weekly schedule for what you want to accomplish prior to the test (i.e., how many sample questions or tests you want to complete). Be realistic in setting your schedule; if it is unrealistic, it will be useless because you will never stick to it! As with any preparation strategy, the earlier you begin the better. One expert recommends starting four months prior to your test date and working two hours each day. Although this level of preparation may not be possible for everyone, setting a schedule helps you pace yourself and manage your time as you prepare for the actual exam.

2. Learning the LSAT format

The LSAT consists of five sections that last approximately 35 minutes each. Becoming familiar with the test format, including the types of questions in the three LSAT section types (logical reasoning

[“logic games”], analytical reasoning, and reading comprehension) is a first key to success. Understanding the test format will, at a minimum, work to reduce your test anxiety.

3. Developing efficient answering techniques

Use these resources not only to familiarize yourself with the types of questions but also to help spot any weak areas. Answering sample questions may be difficult for you at first, but as you continue studying, you should be able to develop new strategies in areas where you need improvement.

4. Taking LSAT practice tests under similar circumstances as the actual LSAT

Although preparation materials vary in terms of how many sample tests they recommend students take, they agree that working through practice questions is critical to success. To obtain the most benefit from these sample questions, you should try to simulate exam conditions. You should take a few tests—preferably at least three—under simulated test conditions. Specifically, you should take each of these tests in one sitting (during one three-hour block), and you should take them at the time of day during which you will be taking the actual test.

5. Reserving time to grade your LSATs

You should allocate several hours to study the explanations to ensure that you fully understand the explanation to every question.

LSAT PREPARATION COURSES

Properly preparing for the LSAT takes discipline. Some of you will find that you work better if you have someone to hold you accountable in your LSAT preparation. You therefore may benefit from working with an LSAT prep partner or group so that you can stick to the preparation schedule you set out for yourself. For those who learn well by hearing, you may even find that discussing LSAT questions with your study partner or group can help you better understand the material.

Some of you, however, may not be able to keep your own schedule or find others who can help you keep that schedule. You therefore may prepare best by taking an LSAT preparation course. These courses are rather expensive, but they help students who, for whatever reason, cannot effectively prepare on their own.

Whether it be the high cost of these courses or the simple fact that you meet in class regularly, these courses can provide certain applicants with a much-needed incentive to prepare rigorously. Be honest with yourself; if you know that you will have a difficult time sticking to a study regimen unless you have some external accountability, get involved in a LSAT prep group or take an LSAT preparation course.

Several companies provide **LSAT preparation courses**. Perhaps the two most well-known are:

1. **Kaplan** www.kaptest.com

In addition to its traditional classroom course, which costs \$1,299, Kaplan provides private tutoring services and on-line courses ranging from \$159 to \$1149.

2. **Princeton Review** www.princetonreview.com/law

The cost of Princeton Review’s traditional classroom course varies by location, with many ranging from \$1,099 to \$1,399. This company also provides private tutoring services, small group tutoring, and online courses.

In addition, two smaller companies that have gained a sizable segment of the market are:

3. **Testmasters** www.testmasters180.com

Testmasters, which costs \$1250, provides more live classroom instruction time than Kaplan or Princeton Review but does not have as many classroom locations as the other two. Testmasters also provides an intensive weekend course costs only \$350.

4. **LSAT Intensive Review** www.prepmaster.com

Like Testmasters intensive weekend course, LSAT Intensive Review provides a two-day intensive course. The course costs \$349.

5. **PowerScore** www.powerscore.com

PowerScore offers an 80-hour course for \$1,195 and a weekend course for \$350.